

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 have been canceled. New claims 24-53 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The title has been changed to "LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD".

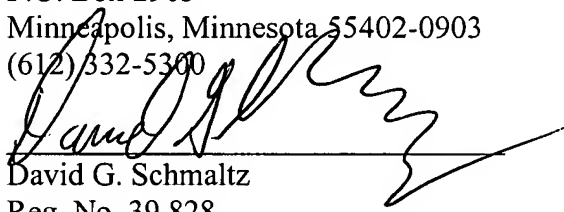
The Abstract has been replaced with a new Abstract as seen in the Amendments to the Abstract section.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 6, 2004



David G. Schmaltz
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23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE